WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Founded December 19, 1857 MAY, 1977

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We have two of our most important events of the year coming up in June which you will not want to miss.

First is our Annual Meeting at 8:00 PM Thursday June 2nd in the Liberty Hall of Ann Arbor Federal Savings. There will be reports from the various officers and committee heads and an election of officers and directors.

Then on Saturday June 11th we will have our annual tour. This year we will visit historic spots in Chelsea followed by a church dinner. This is our first tour of the Chelsea area and should prove very interesting.

Hope to see you there.

Thomas F. Lacy

P.S. Don't forget to propagate plants for the plant sale September 6 and 7.

WCHS ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION TO BE JUNE 2

The Washtenaw County Historical Society annual meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2, in Liberty Hall.

After election of officers and board members and reports on the state of the society, Wystan "Fast-shutter" Stevens will show some of his candid shots of historical society members and their activities during the past year.

WCHS RECEIVES GIFTS

WCHS recently received a check for $2,226 from the estate of the late Sara Parker and $10 in the name of Oscar Eberbach.

The Parker will was written in the early 1930's and set up a trust after death. Costs of administering have increased to the point where it was decided to distribute the assets. WCHS received two-ninths.

Does anyone remember Miss Parker?

WCHS ANNUAL TOUR JUNE 11 TO VISIT CHELSEA, HOME OF CONTROVERSIAL INDUSTRIALIST FRANK GLAZIER

Historic Chelsea, home of the prominent and controversial turn-of-the-century industrialist and politician Frank Glazier, will be the destination of the annual WCHS tour Saturday, June 11.

Glazier perfected the three-burner kerosene cookstove and manufactured it. He built a bank in Chelsea, became state treasurer and ultimately served time in Jackson prison following financial collapse.

Chelsea is now the home of Jiffy-Mix and the Chrysler Proving Grounds. The tour will cover some of its spots of historic interest.

Two buses will leave the Ann Arbor Federal parking lot at Washington and Division Streets in Ann Arbor at 1 p.m. Tour guides will be Harold Jones and Katy Chapman of the Chelsea Historical Society.

Jones who is also active in WCHS and the genealogy section now lives in the house at Cavanaugh Lake where Frank Glazier died.

The tour will conclude with a chicken dinner at North Lake Methodist Church prepared by the women of the church.

The bus tour and dinner will cost $7 per person. Bus seating is limited to 80. Reservations may be made by telephoning Vice-president Stuart Thayer afternoons at 665-5769 by June 4.

BEHIND THE SCENES PEEK AT 1902 RINGLING CIRCUS, STORY OF COBBLESTONE CONTRACTOR IN STORE FOR MAY

Who built Cobblestone Farm house and what was it like behind the scenes at the Ringling Brothers Circus in 1902?

Stuart Thayer, WCHS vice-president and curator, will answer both questions in a two-part program at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 26, in Liberty Hall at Ann Arbor Federal Savings.

Stephen Mills was the local contractor who built Cobblestone Farm house and a number of other houses, not of cobblestone. He was active in the county from 1836 to 1865. Thayer has prepared a slide presentation on Mills career.

The behind the scenes peek at the circus comes about because a friend of Thayer's found some old glass plate negatives taken by a man who traveled with the circus and photographed it in 1902.

Thayer, a specialist in circus history, is active with the national Circus History Association and edits their publication.

GENEALOGY SECTION SCHEDULES SUMMER ACTIVITIES, MAKING PLANS TO HOST STATE CONFERENCE SEPT. 9-11

The WCHS Genealogy Section has a busy summer ahead as they plan for a state-wide genealogy meeting they will host September 9 to 11 at the Hoyt Conference Center at Eastern Michigan University.

Flora Burt, treasurer of the Section and member of an old Detroit family, will continue a discussion of old Detroit, at the May meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at Washtenaw Community College. The group meets in the new Learning Materials Center building. A help session begins at 1 p.m.

The section also plans its annual meeting and potluck salad luncheon at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 26 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. William F. Bender, 2310 Ayrshire Dr. (off Plymouth Road) and a picnic at 1 p.m. July 24 at the home of Harold Jones, 701 Glazier at Cavanaugh Lake near Chelsea.

GAZETTES GALORE

300 YEARS OF NEWSPAPERS

David Pollock, the April WCHS speaker and former journalist, said his newspaper collection started because he never got around to taking them out.

Now his collection, including some reproductions, ranges from the earliest English language newspaper to last winter's classroom extra for Columbus, Ohio, children when schools were closed during the natural gas shortage.

It includes contemporary accounts of events from the Boston massacre to the moon walk. He also has a paper printed for the Amish, a Japanese-language April Fool's day edition and the "world's smallest newspaper".

Pollock, executive assistant to the president of Washtenaw Community College, displayed some of his papers and gave a slide illustrated talk.

His oldest paper is *The London Gazette* of July 12, 1666. The first English language newspaper, it started in 1665 as *The Oxford Gazette* because the royal court had moved out of London for a few weeks to avoid the plague. It was published twice weekly and his issue is "Numb. 70" from the first year.

The Gazette is immediately recognizable as a newspaper with stories in colunns, a masthead across the top, and it is numbered and dated. However it was "Published by Authority" of the crown and contained no advertisements.

A true newspaper must publish at least once a week, he said, be produced by mechanical means, available to anyone willing to pay the price, and must print items of general interest. That separates it from a religious paper, for example.

It also must appeal to a public of ordinary literary skill and be at least relatively timely and stable.

The name "gazette" comes from Italy. In Venice, persons paid a "gazzetta", a small coin, to get news of the war in Dalmatia in 1566. At that time printing had been introduced and there were occasional publications.

The oldest newspaper on earth detailed proceedings of the court and royal family of China for a thousand years before ceasing publication in 1911. He has not seen any examples of it.

The London paper told mostly of ship arrivals, sailings, battles, movement of troops and household information, not gossip. A later issue in 1676 had advertisements including one for a newly invented fire engine with leather pipes.

The first English language daily was *The London Daily Courant* in 1702. Elizabeth Mallet may have founded it although there is varying opinion on that — I suppose from some chauvinists, he commented.

In his *Courant* for October 12, 1777, its Paris newsletter says, "They write from Genoa the 29th that the Sicilian ship from Messina was arrived in that port. The master of that ship reported that Cagliari (a city in Sardinia) surrendered the 26th but he knew not whether by capitulation or otherwise." The editor notes parenthetically, "But it must be remembered that this Paris newswriter has often told us the same news without grounds, neither does the following post mention anything of it." This editor, Samuel Buckley, put news on an honest basis, he noted.

The first American newspaper was *The Public Occurrences* by Benjamin Harris in Boston in 1690. There was only one issue because crown representatives suspended it.

The Boston Newsletter in 1704, later *The Boston Gazette,* was the first continuous newspaper. *The New England Courant* followed in 1721 published by Benjamin Franklin's older brother, James. It did not publish court reports and it did not publish "by authority."

When Benjamin Franklin became editor at about 16 years of age he solicited essays and such and made it more of an entertainment medium.

The first American daily was the short-lived *Pennsylvania Evening Post* in 1783 by Benjamin Towne. *The Pennsylvanis Packet and Daily Advertiser* became a daily a year later and continued for fifty years.

The Boston Gazette for March 12, 1770, in Clements Library, tells of the Boston massacre on the inside pages — not page one, a week after the event.

Most newspapers of the time carried very little local news because everyone knew what was going on in town, he noted. Samuel Adams may have stimulated the story of the massacre as a propaganda piece. Colonial newspapers

FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

Courtesy of David Pollock

Numb. 70.

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday, July 12. to Monday, July 16. 1666.

Edenburgh, July 7.

TWo more Prizes are brought up to *Leith*, laden with Wine and Brandy: the people of this place are very hearty and zealous for the service of His Majesty in this War with the Dutch and French.

And a general Rendezvous is appointed in this City, for the putting it into a posture, as may be most for the publique good.

Falmouth, July 8. A private Man of Warr, called the *Swallow*, Captain *Manning* Commander, came this day into *Helford*, bringing with him a French Prize with Ballaſt, *Exeter*, has collected in that City 59 *l.* 5 *s.* 9 *d.* towards the relief of *Colchester*, which is a ſeaſonable charity worthy imitation.

Alborough, July 11. Since Monday laſt we have ſeen only three Dutch men of War, and a French Sloop, which latter on Monday night rode within a mile of the Town the other came not within a League, but ſtood off again to Sea, and are now riding within two Leagues of us to the South-East. We can hence diſcover the Dutch Fleet about eighty ſail, neat five Leagues diſtant from us to the South East: and in the *Gunfleet* five ſail more, their Fleet being obſerved to ly now

became important in passing information and stirring sentiment during the Revolution, he said.

In the same issue Dr. Benjamin Church advertised his medical services. Long afterward it became known that Church, who rallied around Samuel Adams and was involved in the Boston Tea Party etc., was a spy.

The U-M's Clements Library has a very beautiful letter written by Paul Revere's wife pleading with him not to try to come into the city of Boston after his famous ride and that she would send money to him by Dr. Church. It never got to him because Church turned it over to the British. The letter ended up among British papers eventually sold to the library.

While most colonial newspapers were published in New England and the upper colonies, *The Virginia Gazette,* one of the earliest in the south, was first to publish the Declaration of Independence, July 16, 1776.

The first paper west of the Alleghenies was *The Sentinel of The Northwestern Territory* in Cincinnati in 1793.

The Essex Register of Salem, Massachusetts, for September 12, 1812, reports the August 16th surrender of Detroit by General Hull. In an adjoining column from Pittsburgh dated August 28 from Colonel Cass is a blistering attack on Hull for his "deplorable and disgraceful" surrender.

The London Times of April 26, 1813, tells of the successful British attack by Colonel Proctor on Frenchtown on the Raisin River in Michigan Territory in January, 1813. *The Times* carried the red stamp required by the crown on all publications, the stamp "over which our forebears fit".

Fr. Gabriel Richard brought the first printing press into Michigan and published the first newspaper, *The Michigan Essay,* on August 31, 1809. Prior to that he had a crier tell the news and items for sale from the steps of St. Anne's Church.

The English-French *Detroit Gazette* published from 1817 to 1830. It had 152 subscribers in 1820. It and *The Detroit Free Press* started in 1831, now the oldest paper in Michigan, were both Democratic papers. Most newspapers espoused a particular political philosphy in those days.

The Free Press became a daily in 1845. The second oldest paper is the *Kalamazoo Gazette,* 1837. It actually started in White Pigeon where the state's second land office was located but both soon moved to Kalamazoo. The first upper peninsula paper was *The Lake Superior News and Miners Journal* at Copper Harbor in 1846.

Pollock has the last issue of the paper published on Beaver Island when it was a Mormon kingdom. The 1856 issue tells about the American Navy taking "King" Strang away.

A *New York Herald* showing the ramparts of Fort Sumpter describes the attack on it at the beginning of the Civil War. Copies of the *New York Herald, Detroit Free Press* and *Winona (Minnesota) Tribune* all tell of Lincoln's assassination.

The Detroit News started in 1876 as *The Evening News.* The first issue gives an extensive account of Custer's last stand and the finding of gold in 1876.

An Indiana Republican paper, *The Frankfort Banner* of 1880 exulted **"Indiana is redeemed, it was Porter and Victory early in the morning by a majority of 5,500. We have met the enemy and they are ours. Indiana sends greetings to Ohio and the nation."**

An Indiana Democratic paper, *The South Bend Daily Times,* in the Cleveland election of 1884 emblazoned the front page with the "proud bird", a rooster then symbolic of the Democartic party and said **"Union to be restored"** (since Cleveland was elected). Pollock's great uncle was its "objective" editor.

The large bold headlines of *The Detroit Times* story of the Lindbergh kidnaping illustrate the sensationalism that became dominant from the turn of the century.

The San Francisco Call, Chronicle and Examiner resulted from a cooperative effort when only one press could be found standing after the 1906 earthquake.

PM started in New York in 1939 as a purely objective paper unblemished by the influence of advertising. It was printed on a very good paper with large, good quality photographs somewhat in the Life-magazine style.

Marshall Field started *The Chicago Sun-Times* Dec. 4, 1941 to present a different viewpoint from the isolationist and strongly anti-Roosevelt *Chicago Daily Tribune* That became academic three days later when Pearl Harbor came along and *The Tribune* was just as involved in supporting the war effort as *The Sun.*

Later headlines proclaimed **"War ½ over, surrender of Germans ends conflict in Europe,"** and **"Japs next, Germans surrender unconditionally".** Later *The Ypsilanti Press* announced **"Japs give up, Hirohito to be puppet".**

Pollock has the famous early edition of *The Chicago Tribune* saying **"Dewey Defeats Truman".** The next day in St. Louis a photographer pictured the winning Truman holding up that edition which has become probably the most famous single front page in American history.

His collection includes the first *Michigan Daily* in 1890 with ads for fraternity pins and a story about the rugby team. A one-page *Daily* extra reported Kennedy's assassination. It came off the press about 5 p.m. that day and was distributed free on campus. The next day's edition reported the U-M closed in mourning and President Johnson's first day in office.

An old edition of *The Jonesville Independent* had a front page of blank columns except for "a short story with an unhappy ending." It told how the printer forgot to lock the type in the page form before he started the press. The type from two of his four pages went flying. It was printed with

the two blank pages and an ad for a new printer.

The Mears Newz (sic), a chatty down home paper less than half the size of *The Impressions,* claims to be the world's smallest newspaper. Mears, Michigan, near Hart, was named for Charles Mears, a millionaire lumber baron.

The South Bend Daily Times ceased publication in 1939 with a large inkless "30" on the front page, the symbol of the end of a story, in this case the end of a newspaper.

He concluded with some souvenirs of his days as public information officer for the U.S. 25th Division in Osaka, Japan, after the war. The first Pacific edition of *Stars and Stripes* was printed on one of the two English language linotype machines in Japan. He has an April Fool's Day edition of the *Osaka Niehi Nichi Shimbun* with joke pictures and another issue with his picture announcing in Japanese his new position.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Chelsea Historical Society— No meetings through summer.

Dexter Historical Society— Dr. Randal Hoyer of the history department of Madonna College in Livonia and a Civil War buff will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26, at the museum. Charles and Pat Derry of Dexter will also show a short film.

The annual meeting will be Saturday, July 30. The museum will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. each Tuesday and also on the second and fourth Saturdays each month through the summer as well as by appointment.

Milan Historical Society— Meets at 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday of month at Milan Community House through summer. The society plans an exhibit at the Milan Free Fair July 11-16 in Wilson Park. They plan to exhibit local artifacts and pictures and have their book, "Ancient and Modern Milan" for sale. They may also have an old fire truck.

Salem Historical Society— Lunch and fashion show (and prizes) 12-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, at Salem Town Hall, sponsored by society. Members will model clothes from the Natural Woman shop in South Lyon. Tickets at $2 available from members or by calling President Doris Gillihan, 1-349-5447.

Last business meeting for season Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m. at town hall. A community potluck picnic is planned from 10 a.m. to dark Saturday, June 11, at Washtenaw Community Park on Pontiac trail next to German Park. Games and prizes for all ages.

Saline Historical Society— Picnic in June. Date to be announced.

Ypsilanti Historical Society— The trash and treasure sale in the carriage house behind the museum will be Saturday, June 4, instead of May 4 as mistakenly announced last time. The society is seeking donations of everything except clothing by May 29 for the sale.

The museum will mark the 50th anniversary of Lindbergh's historic flight with a special exhibit from 2-4 p.m. May 21 and 22. Victor Tidwell, a barnstorming pilot, will be there with his scrapbooks.

HAZEL PROCTOR DESIGNS EXHIBIT, TO DONATE FEE

There is more to the story of Chuck Muer's exhibit of copies of historic pictures at the Gandy Dancer Restaurant. Hazel Proctor, vice-president of Ann Arbor Federal for advertising and public relations and treasurer of WCHS, designed the exhibit and plans to donate her fee to the historical society.

LAST ISSUE UNTIL FALL

This is the last issue of The Impressions until September. Special thanks to Ann Arbor Federal and Drury Lacy, Inc. who help make this paper possible as well as several of their employes. Thanks also to volunteer Anna Thorsch who keylines it and WCHS Secretary Ethelyn Morton who prepares it for mailing. See you next fall.

CORRECT COPIES AVAILABLE

An undetermined number of the April *Washtenaw Impressions* were accidentally mis-printed without pages 2 and 5. Complete copies are available at Kempf House, 312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor, or by contacting Ethelyn Morton, secretary, at 662-2634 or Alice Ziegler, editor, 663-8826.

Washtenaw Historical Society Meeting
THURSDAY
8:00 P.M.
LIBERTY HALL
ANN ARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS
LIBERTY AT DIVISION
May 26, 1977

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